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10821 Malaguena Lane NE
Albuquerque. NM 87111

Office of the Governor
Robert L. Erlich Jr
State House
Annapolis MD 21401-1925

Dear Governor Erlich

This is an urgent request for help. My family is being used as political pawns by the EPA and MDE. Our parents bought a farm near Elkton MD in 1948. It is our family farm. Our family farmed the property until 1975. At that point, our father started renting the property at a low rental rate to Spry Brothers, who kept farming the property for the next thirty years. Mr. Bill Spry contacted you a year ago concerning 55 acres of wheat the EPA cordoned off and would not let him harvest it nor pay him for the lost crop. Through your efforts, EPA ended up paying Mr. Spry for his lost crop.

In 1992, when our parents were still alive, the MDE conducted an extensive investigation and confirmed that part of the farm was utilized by the federal government, including the Department of the Navy, for disposal of ammunition and debris during World War II. Some materials were removed years ago, and our parents heard nothing more from the government.

My brother, sister, and I inherited the property from our parents. Since our parents died, MDE and EPA have again started investigating the same concerns about disposal of ammunition and debris on one part of the property. MDE and EPA asked me for information about the property and permission to access it, which I gave. EPA repeatedly told me that the Department of Defense would pay for a clean-up of the property. I gave MDE and EPA as much information as I could and allowed the government unlimited access to our family's property. Mr. Alex Cox of MDE was a primary contact. I even met Mr. Cox at the farm in 2003 as he was beginning his investigation.

In light of all of this, it came as a great shock to receive a letter from EPA a few weeks ago saying that EPA had been cleaning up the property directly in conjunction with MDE and wanted my family to pay EPA at least \$885,826.56 for the clean-up! Apparently EPA did not succeed at getting DOD to clean up the property voluntarily. Instead of being honest with us, EPA instead kept telling us that it was going to make DOD pay for the remediation and now is trying to make my family pay the bill instead. Enclosed is a copy of that letter from the EPA. Incidentally, the letter was faxed to me without any notice late on a Friday afternoon.

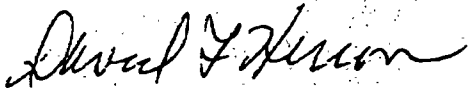


It is clear to me that EPA is trying to extort us to pay for this clean-up rather than making DOD clean it up. I am 65 and very close to retirement, I thought My brother, sister, and I were planning on using the income from a sale toward our retirement. For instance my sister and her husband are missionaries and planned on using their share of money from the sale to support their work with the poor and infirmed. We discovered EPA had sent out 'Potentially Responsible Party' (PRP) letters to the Army and Navy in May 2005. When EPA Region III in Philadelphia found out that we had a contract to sell the property they decided to come after us. We understand that MDE is still coordinating the clean-up. We did not contaminate the property - DOD did! This was our family farm that the government contaminated over three years before our parents bought it. This is not disputed. We are at a loss as to why EPA would try to make us pay for the government's intentional acts that now violate the law.

I am writing you to help in any way you can, since MDE is a major party in this clean-up. This is urgent! EPA is very close to taking away our retirement. This is simply unfair! The DOD should be paying for all of this. Please help stop MDE/EPA from unfairly ruining our lives. We were lied to and entrapped by them. This has stressed all of us beyond belief. My brother, sister and I have already contacted our federal elected officials for help. My daughter Amy Herron, a minority partner who lives in Maryland, will be contacting you shortly.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience. Thanks so much for your help.

Respectfully Yours



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